

## HYDROPONIC MADONNA

sucks all the  
nutrients out  
of your water  
invisibly she  
roots easy can  
move without  
tearing pieces  
of herself  
off and  
leaving them  
behind

## WHALE WATCH MADONNA

likes to  
just look  
out into  
the dis  
tance

## DIAMOND MADONNA

knows she's  
valuable but  
feels flawed

fragmented  
off color  
with hidden  
dark spots

she's sure you'll  
throw her aside  
because of

## MADONNA WHO LIVES IN TERROR OF TAXES AND MEN

as if both are  
going to get  
what she wanted  
to hold on to

## THE BOWLS FROM BAVARIA

in my mother's china  
closet. For years  
she said one's for  
you, one's for your  
sister. Wedding  
presents from Nanny  
and Gramp, for years  
she asked me to  
choose — "The  
rooster's better,  
Honey, I think,  
more valuable.  
Take the numbers,  
I wish you'd find  
out." She said  
she knew the flowers  
were pretty wanted  
me to have what  
ever's best even  
if it was ugly

## CARS AND MEN

always let you down  
especially when you're  
most in need they

won't say what's  
wrong conk out across  
your driveway your  
skin. I've always been  
attracted to the ones  
that aren't practical  
aristocrats, Daimlers  
exotic, flashy but  
falling apart and

having to be dragged  
home in my arms at  
great expense the  
ones that dazzle you  
the ones you shouldn't  
marry

— Lyn Lifshin

Washington DC